

20 Oct



American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research
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(202) 862-5800

NFAC 5333-81

August 20, 1981

Mr. Henry Rowen
Chairman
National Intelligence Council
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Rowen:

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to participate in a conference to be jointly sponsored October 21-22 by the Giovanni Angelli Foundation of Italy and the American Enterprise Institute in Washington. The focus of the conference will be the Mediterranean, Middle East, and Southwest Asia, and the potential for European-American cooperation within this important area. The approach is spelled out in greater detail in the attached.

Former Assistant Secretary of State Hal Saunders will chair the conference. In addition to about sixteen American participants, four to six of the participants will come from Italy for these sessions.

The conference will begin at 6:30 pm, October 21 with a working dinner at the American Enterprise Institute and continue through the working day October 22. Brief papers will be presented at the outset of each session as a basis for discussion, but the focus will be on an exchange over the issues with opportunity for the Italian participants to draw out the American participants on each side. The emphasis will be very much on intensive conversation within a relatively small group, so each participant will have an opportunity to play a role in the development of our thoughts.

On behalf of the Angelli Foundation and the American Enterprise Institute, I very much hope you will be able to join us in this project. Could you please telephone your response to Randa Murphy at (202) 862-5946 by October 1.

"no" 9/29/81
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Sincerely,



Robert J. Pranger
Director of International Programs

Attachment

U.S. Policy Perceptions of the Mediterranean
Middle East, and Southwest Asia

Conference Sponsored Jointly by the
Giovanni Agnelli Foundation of Italy and the
American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research
in Washington, D.C. -- October 21-22, 1981

Purpose: The overall objective of this conference is to contribute to mutual Italian-United States understanding by examining present U.S. policy toward the Mediterranean, Middle East, and Southwest Asia and how it will interact with the interests of Italy and Europe. Those present will include about sixteen Americans and four Italians from government, press, research institutes, and business. Through discussion among the Americans of U.S. interests and comment by the Italians, the hope will be to further sensitize each side to the other's concerns and to highlight possibilities for cooperation and mutually supportive policies. The papers and discussion will be transcribed and edited for publication in Italian and English by the sponsoring organizations.

Format: The conference will be divided into five sessions, beginning with a working dinner at 6:30 p.m., October 21 at the American Enterprise Institute and continuing through four sessions October 22 in the AEI Board Room, including luncheon. Translation will be provided. Americans will lead each session, beginning each with a 10-15 minute paper (8-10 double-spaced pages) and then continuing with discussion.

Session #1 -- working dinner: "The Mediterranean, Middle East, Southwest Asia -- Challenges for U.S. Policy in the 1980s"

The purpose is to provide the view of this policy area from Washington as the new Administration forms its policy and to define the policy problems which it poses for the United States, including its relations with Europe. American interests will be defined by the speaker, and one aim of the discussion will be to illuminate where real European interests may differ.

Paper Author and Discussion Leader: Harold H. Saunders, Resident Fellow, American Enterprise Institute; Former Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs; Director of Intelligence and Research, Department of State; senior member, National Security Council Staff in the White House responsible for North Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia.

Session #2 -- first morning discussion: "Nature of the Soviet Threat -- Seen from Washington and Europe"

The purpose is to examine exactly what the nature of the Soviet threat to European, American, and Japanese interests is and is not in this area and to understand why the threat is viewed differently from Europe and the United States.

Paper Author and Discussion Leader: William G. Hyland, now with the Carnegie Endowment. Former Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs; Director of Intelligence and Research, Department of State; Senior Member, National Security Council Staff in the White House responsible for European and Soviet Affairs; associated with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger at the Georgetown Center for Strategic and International Studies; participant in American Enterprise Institute U.S. Senate seminar on SALT, 1979.

Session #3 -- second morning discussion: "The Challenge to Security -- Seen from the Area"

The purpose is to examine how the principal nations in the area view the main threats to their security, what measures they feel are important to preserving their security, and how they see the respective security roles of Europe, the United States, and the Soviet Union.

Paper Author and Discussion Leader: David D. Newsom, Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, Georgetown University. Former Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs; Ambassador to Philippines, Indonesia, Libya; Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs.

Session #4 -- first afternoon discussion: "Opportunities for European-American Cooperation for Peace"

The purpose is to discuss briefly the present opportunities and inhibitions for cooperation to reduce conflict and strengthen the course toward peace in the area and then to look forward to potential opportunities for co-operation or complementary activities.

Paper Author and Discussion Leader: Joseph J. Sisco, private consultant. Formerly President and Chancellor of American University in Washington, D.C.; Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs. Co-author of a report to the Trilateral Commission, "The Middle East and the Trilateral Countries" (1981).

Session #5 -- final discussion: "The Issues in Perspective"

The purpose will be to select key issues raised in the earlier sessions and to allow time for discussion of them.

Discussion leaders will be selected from among participants to highlight the Congressional perspective.